Musket

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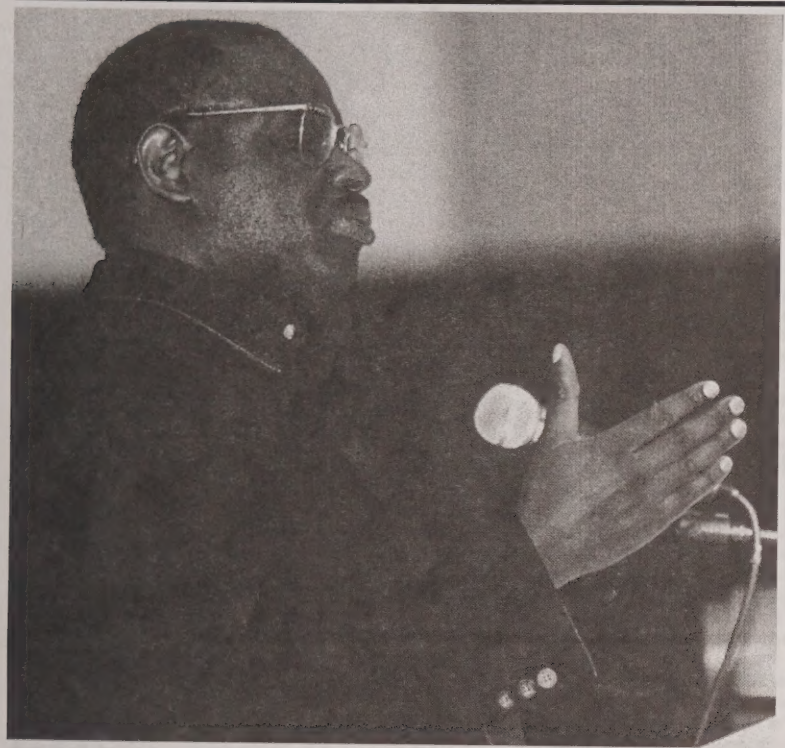


Photo courtesy of the Minuteman/John Walker

Father Bazile Bazina, a refugee from the 1994 Rwandan massacre, was a guest speaker at the first annual Human Rights Night.

Amnesty organizes human rights night

Speakers Bazile Bazina and Joshua Rubenstein discuss rights violations

by
Ashwini Nadkarni

The LHS chapter of Amnesty International, run by senior presidents Sarah Platt and Becky Ticotsky, held its first annual Human Rights Night on October 15 in the Gillespie Auditorium.

The speakers, Father Basile Bazina, survivor of the 1994 Rwandan genocide, and Joshua Rubenstein, the Northeast Director of Amnesty International, discussed important issues surrounding human rights.

Bazina, the first to address the gathering that attended the event, began on a melancholy note.

"Being a priest and a preacher, I talk everyday. But, I wish I were not here today…I wish I did not have to talk about genocide…about machetes," he stated.

Bazina emigrated to the U.S from Rwanda in 1992 to enter a graduate program. Having completed his courses in December of 1994, he returned to Rwanda for a visit.

At that time, he was shocked to discover the magnitude of the tension between the Hutu and the Tutsi factions. "I couldn't believe it…Everyone mistrusted everyone else…"

Two weeks after Bazina returned to the U.S., he learned from a Channel 7 news bulletin that two leaders of a Central African nation had been murdered. News of the genocide that killed 1 million Rwandans followed the announcement.

Bazina stated that he could barely find the words to describe the horror of the massacre.

"Shoot to kill was the order [for the Hutus]. "…They [the Hutus] killed ruthlessly with guns and machetes."

Bazina continued, "How can you forget that 1 million, maybe 2.5 million people died, especially when most of the most of the people who died were part of your family."

Bazina attributed the Rwandan tragedy to the struggle for power and wealth between the Hutus and the Tutsis.

"I refuse to admit that outsiders, the Belgians or the French, are responsible for what happened…only we are responsible…nobody puts a machete or rifle in your hand, you put it in your hand and you use it."

For this reason, Bazina felt that his people should accept responsibility for what happened and stop blaming each other.

Doing his part to increase the unity of his people, Bazina refused to be identified as either a Hutu or a Tutsi. "I don't like to answer that question because it creates division," he said.

Rubenstein, who also spoke during the evening, discussed the achievements and limitations of Amnesty International.

In addition, he pointed out the necessity of an international tribunal court that could arrest perpetrators of crimes akin to the Rwandan genocide.

"No one is saying that the creation of an international court is a panacea. But, it [a tribunal court] could publicize the crimes that occur without having the pretense of trying to stop them," said Rubenstein.

AMNESTY, continued on page 6

Revised renovation proposal sent to December 7th vote

Town meeting overwhelmingly approves decision

by
Evan Harris

In a final vote of 147-16, decided on November 9, Town Meeting members approved the decision to send voters to a special election on December 7 that will determine whether $52,235,000 should be appropriated for a three-school capital project.

Having rejected last year's school improvement plan, estimated at $68.2 million in cost, Town Meeting members overwhelmingly voted for the revised plan, estimated at $53.9 million in total cost.

The difference between this sum and the $52,235,000 request exists because Town Meeting members already appropriated $1.7 million in 1996.

"Even though I'm generally opposed to high taxes and big spending, I think this [revised renovation proposal] is a good idea because it affects the health and well-being of students."

- Senior Holly Arthur

Principal Philip Lanoue, a great proponent of the revised plan, revealed its major details.

In addition to infrastructure changes, the revised improvement plan reduces the relocation of the main entrance to the Worthern Road side of the facility, near the gymnasium, considerably in scale.

However, the current entrance is being slightly enlarged.

Additional differences entail the elimination of a new lobby in that area and the reduction of the scope of renovation to the parking lots and exterior landscaping.

The revised plan also makes changes in the area around the science building. An irregularly shaped two-story library addition in the senior quad has been reduced to one story and squared off.

The current library will be converted to much needed science labs and the current science lecture hall, which was scheduled to be removed and replaced in the previous plan, will now only undergo minor renovation.

The revised proposal still calls for the construction of two new cafeterias built in the existing

RENOVATIONS, continued on page 6

Inside

Racism at LHS
Record numbers of thefts cause racial tensions to build. *See page 2.*

Music makin' bonanza
Students put on a top notch performance at the Fall concert. *See page 3.*

Fleet feet earn honors
The boys' cross country team is crowned champion of the league. *See page 8.*

Photo by Emily Handlin

Ecstatic member of the girls' swim team, junior Sarah Calvin, isn't just smiling about the revised renovation proposal. See story page 7.

NEASC authorities visit LHS

by
Jason Hirschhorn

As part of the accreditation process of LHS, sixteen selected educators visited the high school for three days between October 26 and October 28.

These principals, teachers and administrators from other high schools in Massachusetts were visiting to see if Lexington High School adheres to the specific guidelines set by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

The NEASC accredits public schools, colleges, high schools and private schools.

Accreditation is based on ten standards: curriculum and instruction; student services; library media; administrative faculty; support staff; facilities; community support; financial support; school climate; and student assessment of learning.

Every ten years, schools go through "self studies" in which they evaluate themselves and are evaluated by the NEASC to determine how well they meet the ten standards.

The NEASC evaluates the positive and negative value of almost every program in the school.

NEASC visitors observed classes to see if different teaching methods were being used. They also talked to students in the quad as well as at the smoking corner to get an accurate picture of what students felt the high school's strengths and weaknesses are.

Although Principal Philip Lanoue is confident that LHS will be accredited, he realizes that there will be negative and positive aspects to the NEASC report.

"I imagine that there are no major discrepancies between our self study and the NEASC evaluation report."

- Principal Philip Lanoue

"Our facilities are problematic. The physical appearance and quality of the facilities will probably be our biggest negative," he explains.

"[But], we have high expectations for the student and faculty reports and believe that school climate and community support will likely be rated quite strong."

Before the NEASC team's visit to the high school, a report, generated by Lexington High School, was published and sent to the NEASC.

The report is LHS's version of how well it meets the ten criteria for accreditation.

In addition, the team evaluates the high school compared to how it claims to be meeting the standards. The chair of the NEASC group who visited LHS will synthesize the reports of the other fifteen educators who also evaluated Lexington High school.

In two to three months, his report will be sent to the NEASC national commissioner. At that point, Lexington will either be allowed to continue its accreditation, go on probation or lose its accreditation.

Again, Lanoue is confident that LHS has nothing to worry about. "I imagine that there are no major discrepancies between our self study and the NEASC evaluation report."

Schools that have lost their accreditation or gone on probation include Jerimiah Burke High School in Boston and Lawrence High School.

Photo by Emily Handlin

An NEASC instructor chats with seniors Caroline Timm (l), Lindsay Martin (r), and Ann Benedick (lr) in the quad.

Thefts increase racial tensions

Hostility builds as thefts multiply

by
Sumit Dasgupta

Recently, a disturbing trend has been on the rise. Theft from student backpacks and sports lockers has occurred in record numbers.

Among the things reported missing have been clothes, shoes, Walkmen, calculators, and other valuables.

Principal Philip Lanoue expressed his concern over these alarming statistics in a morning announcement some weeks ago.

He hoped that the trend would not continue and asked the student population for information regarding the perpetrators of these crimes.

Lanoue was clear in stating that any student caught stealing would be suspended.

Theft has always been an issue at LHS, but in the first few weeks of this school year, the problem has spiraled out of control. Until specific thieves are apprehended, Assistant Principal Arthur Dulong warns, "We should not draw unfair generalizations about any group of people."

A varsity soccer player who did not want to be identified recently had a piece of expensive electronic equipment stolen from his locker while he was at a game.

"Different racial groups don't get along perfectly at LHS, and these thefts just make everything ten times worse."

"I can't believe that someone would just go around taking stuff like this," he said. "It makes you lose faith in your classmates, knowing that some of them are stealing your stuff."

The student also said that the recent thefts have caused outbreaks of violence against suspicious persons in the locker room.

"I saw someone wandering around, banging on lockers. As soon as he saw me, he stopped, but I'm sure he would have been beaten up severely had the rest of the soccer team been present."

This student continued, stating that the theft problems have widened the interracial chasm that was previously being slowly eroded.

"When a black kid bangs on lockers, the whole team forms a negative opinion of blacks. When the reverse happens, the racial tensions can get strong. Different racial groups don't get along perfectly at LHS, and these thefts just make everything ten times worse."

Theft is a problem at LHS that causes financial loss to students, creates hostility against groups suspected of stealing, and increases racial tensions.

Hopefully, it will soon be eradicated.

Science curriculum changes proposed

by
David Chen

In an announcement made on October 20th, the state proposed changes to the science curriculum.

Under the current plan, students start with Earth Science freshman year and advance to Biology, Chemistry, and Physics in the following years.

During their sophomore, junior and senior years, students have the option of taking AP courses.

The Massachusetts Department of Education wishes to completely change this process with the new educational reform.

Under the proposed curriculum framework, there are nine "Guiding Principles," the basics for any science curriculum.

These principles include such statements as "Significant science and technology learning builds on students' curiosity and intuition."

Chemistry teacher Douglas Grant is the chairman of the curriculum committee, an advisory panel comprised of teachers from Lexington.

Having reviewed the subject of these reforms for over a year, Grant states, "Eight out of nine of these principles our science department does fantastically."

However, it is the sixth principle that is causing disagreements.

According to the sixth principle, "In PreK-10 the coursework should integrate all sciences every year." This means that until junior year, students would be unable to take specialized courses such as Chemistry or Biology.

This is the state's attempt to eliminate traditional instruction, which the state believes restricts students from learning all fields of science.

The state does not mandate that the school accepts these reforms. However, as many students discovered in last year's MCAS, the state does mandate testing.

For this reason, some feel that the school should consider accepting reforms. Grant poses commentary: "If we want our grades to be higher, we have to run our science curriculum the way the state wants it."

However, the final decision of the fate of the curriculum lies with the school committee, which has the last word in all the decisions that are made in our school system.

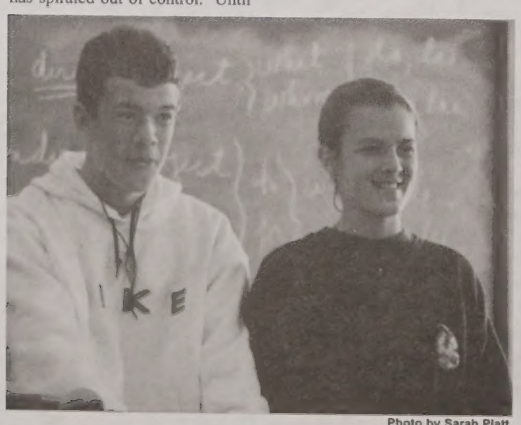


Photo by Sarah Platt

French students Alexandre Djirkian (l) and Aurelie Bray (r) give a presentation to M.Theroux's French V classes. The French Exchange took place between October 12 and October 30.

News Briefs

LHS stages 'Rags'

'Rags', the musical by Charles Strouse and Stephen Shwartz was presented by the drama department in LHS' Gillespie Auditorium on November 19, 20 and 21.

Considered the sequel to the musical 'Fiddler on the Roof,' 'Rags' is the story of Jewish immigrants who struggle to survive in early 20th century America.

The director was drama teacher Steven Bogart. Senior Lisette Silva served as assistant director, junior Siobhan Grace as producer, senior Lily Berezin as stage manager and Ann Carey and senior Ricki Mason as co-choreographers.

Leads included Elizabeth Shapiro, Sara Ris, Garett Blair, Jonah Mitropoulos, Ari Vigoda, Davis Palm, Rachel Backner, Rocky Sastri, Dan Ronco and Hallie Gnatovich.

Senior receives Principal's Award

Congratulations to senior Heidi Manschreck who recently received the Principal's Leadership Award.

Manschreck is now eligible to compete nationally for the Principal's Leadership Award scholarship. Every year, LHS nominates only one senior for this honor.

Commended students announced

Congratulations to the 53 seniors who were commended students in the 1999 Merit Program.

- News Briefs compiled by Ashwini Nadkarni

National Honors Society shares and cares

Committee formed to review and reform application process

by
Claudia Stumpf

Members of the student body are at least minimally aware of the existence of a chapter of National Honor Society here at Lexington High School.

To most, NHS is a group of "excellent students" who mysteriously become prominent in the school community in the spring during the Red Cross Blood Drive.

To members of the group, it is not only an opportunity to be involved in exciting community service activities and something additional to write in on college applications, it is also a hassle.

It involves early morning meetings and an additional community service requirement to worry about.

However, there is a third group of students with a different take on NHS: those students who applied and did not get in. Understandably, some of those students have concerns about the admissions process.

These concerns are shared by some current members of the group and have been addressed by Assistant Principal of Special Services, Diane Lande.

The upshot of all of this is the formation of a committee to review the LHS admissions process. The committee, made up of a combination of current members of NHS and students who were not accepted, plans to take a comprehensive look at the selection process.

Currently, teachers receive a list of all the students whose GPAs qualify them for membership in the society. They are then asked to check one of three options: recommend, highly recommend, or do not recommend.

The student also fills out an application about the community service work he has done in the past. This application counts as the equivalent of one teacher recommendation in the final analysis.

The students are given a number based on the total of the recommendations and the application. The cut-off total for admission is determined more or less arbitrarily.

According to Lande, in other years there have been clear points at which to draw the line, but this year there was no such point.

The committee is intent on looking for logistically reasonable ways to improve the system, with the goal of ensuring that the process is as fair as possible.

There is a feeling among the students that the application and the demonstration of past commitment to community service should have more weight in the selection process.

Also, the committee is planning to look into ways to improve the individuality of the teacher recommendations.

The creation of such a committee is a welcome idea. After all, a fair selection process would benefit everybody.

Photo by Emily Handlin

Junior Lida Kim (l) asserts the elegance of the music making at the Fall concert by smiling rapturously at senior Albert Sheih (r).

Fall concert: a display of divine music making

by
Nathaniel Prottas and Lisette Silva

Fall music concerts at Lexington have become a tradition for many. They are the first opportunity of the year to showcase the music making that happens four times a week in the music wing.

This year, the fall concert represented more than just the beginning of a musical year; it was also the first concert featuring only the Honors groups.

This year, the music program was forced to take its overloaded number of students and divide them into two groups, giving band, chorus and orchestra an honors section.

If the results of the fall concert were anything to go by, the music department made a good choice. The level of the music that was heard on Thursday night was one notch above previous concerts, if that is possible.

All of the groups showed marked improvement from last year's concerts. Wind Symphony conductor, Jeff Leonard, attributes this to the split of the groups.

"I think there's a consensus that this was the right way to go in terms of dividing the groups. Everyone can play at the level of their development."

The first to perform was the Honors Orchestra, under the direction of Mrs. Janet Haas. Performing four pieces, the group displayed an array of styles, ranging from the classic Adagio for Strings by Samuel Barber, to Overture to Ruslan and Ludmilla by Mikhail Glinka.

Owing to the superb talent (much of the orchestra is comprised of GYPSO and NEC participants), the group was able to not only to do the music justice, but also capture the audience emotionally.

A newly revived Concert Choir was the next to take the stage (or, more accurately, the orchestra pit.) Five pieces were performed, each with grace and musicality.

Their repertoire was a conventional yet refreshing selection. The variety of slow, soulful pieces in contrast to the livelier selections all added up to a performance that greatly pleased the crowd.

Midway through the Concert Choir's performance, the Madrigal Singers stepped forward to make a distinctly unique performance, a signature of the group.

Three pieces were performed: A Little, Pretty, Bonny Lass, O Magnum Mysterium and April Is in My Mistress's Face. As expected, the performance was flawless, showcasing the best vocalists Lexington has to offer.

The level of the music that was heard at the Fall concert was one notch above previous concerts, if that is possible.

The concert ended with the performance of The Divine Comedy Suite by Robert W. Smith by the Wind Symphony, under the direction of Jeff Leonard. The piece is a four-movement work based on the literary classic The Divine Comedy, by Dante Alighieri.

An ambitious undertaking, The Divine Comedy Suite strove to take its listeners from the depths of hell to the heights of paradise, all in under half an hour. Leonard had always wanted to challenge the band by playing a full four-movement suite. The band did not disappoint and was awarded with a standing ovation.

LHS Student Spotlight

English as a second language

by
Tristen Chun

Student Spotlight is a column dedicated to celebrating the interests and achievements of different groups of students at LHS.

They are often spotted around D-cafeteria where the Foreign Language Department is located. Although they may look just like everyone else, they are not just like everyone else. "They" are ESL (English as a Second Language) students.

For several years, LHS has been busy welcoming new students from foreign countries. Approximately 2.0% of the student body is currently enrolled in our ESL programs and the number of ESL students increases steadily.

"One of the major goals of our ESL programs is to help these kids feel comfortable with their new school lives."

- ESL Instructor Robert Sarno

Somehow, foreign students favor LHS over other high schools in Massachusetts.

Yu Wang, an ESL student who emigrated from Taiwan, explains why his family chose to live in Lexington. "My parents found out that there are more Chinese people living Lexington…They thought we'd feel more comfortable here because of that."

A unique feature of the Lexington High School ESL program is its utilization of students as tutors. Those who wish to teach English are paired with ESL students for instruction.

This achieves the benefits of private tutoring, even with the shortage of faculty. It also gives students an opportunity to earn academic credits while teaching English to students who need help.

"One of the major goals of our ESL programs is to help these kids feel comfortable with their new school lives," says Robert Sarno, who has been a teacher and director of these programs at LHS for almost 5 years.

"It is another goal for us to teach standard American English to these students," he continues. In order to accomplish such goals Sarno has come up with his own course expectations appropriate for newcomers.

Under his direction, ESL students take two classes a day, usually during B and C blocks. During B block classes, the students pair up with their tutors while during C-block classes, students meet with Sarno.

Freshman Wen-Chieh Lee, an ESL student who also emigrated from Taiwan, enjoys the tutoring program. "The tutors are good teachers and we learn a lot…It's easier to study here in America, than in Taiwan."

Sarno and other student and faculty ESL instructors routinely welcome new students into the Lexington community. Unfortunately, as welcome as they may feel, some ESL students are unhappy with their lives in America.

Yu Wang states, "This country is so different from Taiwan…In Taiwan, friends will do more for each other than they will in America…In my free time, I just sit in front of the computer and talk to my Chinese friends online in Taiwan."

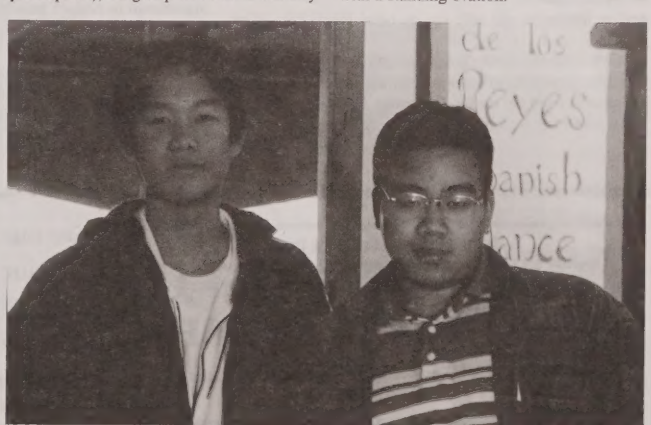


Photo by Emily Handlin

ESL students freshman Wen-Chieh Lee (l) and junior Brandon Tsai (r) lounge in D-house cafeteria where the ESL department is located.

Why not *Forum?*

Over the past few years, as a Musket reporter and editor, I've been asked many times exactly how one gets the chance to contribute to LHS's newspaper. The simple answer? Journalistic ability along with a strong desire to be involved.

In my case, it took quite a bit of persistence — contacting the single editor I knew several times during my freshman year before she started calling me to assign articles.

Why was this persistence necessary? The Musket didn't need me, even if I were qualified. The newspaper's monthly eight pages were, and are, insufficient to allow every qualified reporter to contribute.

At a school like LHS, there are enough students with real journalistic ability to fill more than one editorial board and enough reporters to fill more than one newspaper.

The point of a high school newspaper is to give students a taste of journalism, while providing entertainment and information. Just as the LHS band, unlike a professional group, exists more for the performers than for the audience, journalism at LHS exists primarily for the students involved, with side benefits to the reading public.

Since a journalism class has never been offered, the Musket has, until this year, been students' only opportunity to explore journalism hands-on. The Forum, our new companion on the LHS newsstand, has given a home to those who unfortunately, could not be accommodated on the Musket staff.

Forum editors, if you ask them, will be perfectly willing to discuss the Musket's weaknesses and Musket editors the Forum's. This sense of competition between editorial boards is a healthy one — if each newspaper can emulate the other's strengths and avoid the other's weaknesses, LHS journalism as a whole will be improved.

Regardless of its original intent, the Forum has succeeded in providing journalistic opportunities to far more students than the Musket could support, unquestionably a positive result.

That the two papers are in a de facto competition for readership should not, however, scare off potential writers. Reporters are free to contribute to both papers; journalistic cliques would be an unfortunate result of competition.

The Forum was founded and received its funding based on its proposal to provide a different focus on LHS reporting, a more feature-based approach. Its survival will depend not on the success of these original goals but on the availability of willing writers.

Regardless of its original intent, the Forum has succeeded in providing journalistic opportunities to far more students than the Musket could support, unquestionably a positive result.

The only other possibility to so expand LHS's journalistic horizon would be to have one paper with dual staffs, producing a biweekly paper instead of a monthly one.

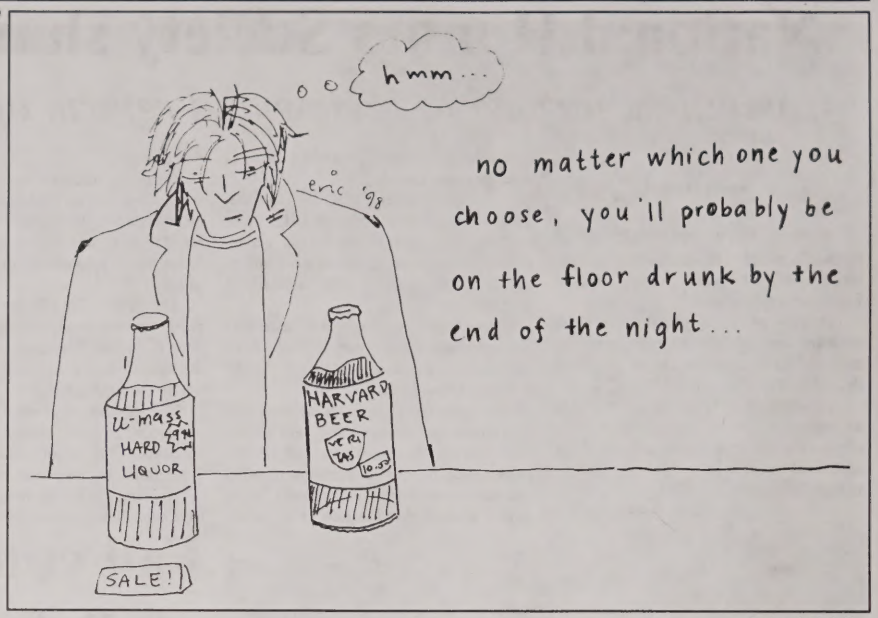
Schools at which journalism is offered as a course often use such a dual-staff system. If the Musket and the Forum can coordinate their release dates, the two papers could achieve this goal of an LHS newspaper every two weeks. Perhaps, at some point in the future, the two papers could merge editorial staffs and produce a more frequent paper, rather than multiple papers.

Until LHS reaches this journalistic ideal, the Forum will succeed in reducing the prerequisites for newspaper work to one: journalistic ability.

No longer will underclassmen have to hound editors for article assignments —
anyone interested and able should be welcomed at either paper.

LHS is now a writer's market, rather than an editor's market — my task becomes harder, but the bulk of LHS, the reporters and the readers, benefit.

- Ken Weinstein


hmm...
eric '98
no matter which one you choose, you'll probably be on the floor drunk by the end of the night...
U-MASS HARD LIQUOR
HARVARD BEER
SALE!

Cartoon by Eric Hou

Pay lower prices for education

When senior year arrives and students begin the college application process, they often jump immediately at a private college. By overlooking the vast number of public universities that provide a strong education at under half the cost of a private school education, these students are making a grave mistake.

Before being too hasty to choose from the smattering of Ivy Leagues, students should explore all their educational opportunities and take public universities into consideration.

Perhaps the most striking difference between public and private universities is the tuition rates. The average tuition cost of a private university education is about $20,000 a year, while a public university would only cost an average of $10,000 per year.

In addition, public universities offer numerous government subsidies so that about 95% of students acquire some form of financial aid or scholarship, as opposed to only 70% for private institutions. As tuition rates rise and paying for college becomes more difficult, public universities offer allow-cost option for higher education.

Since the state and national government cover much of the public universities expenses, family money can be saved for other purposes. On the other hand, private universities will take a large chunk of cash from the wallet.

The stark contrast between the tuition rates of public and private universities is often thought to be explained by the inadequacy of the facilities, faculty, and individual attention of public universities.

This is not so. Public universities have almost something for everyone. At such institutions, a wide range of courses are taught by teachers from different backgrounds, giving new insights and experiences on the material.

The faculty, although not as renowned as that of an Ivy League College, provide an excellent teaching atmosphere and facilitate learning. The athletic programs are also always excellent as evidenced by the numerous Division I teams in all varieties of sports.

From the Ohio State Buckeyes and UCLA Bruins of college football to the Michigan State Spartans and Umass Minuteman in college basketball, public universities have proven that their facilities are excellent in creating strong competitive teams.

Although most private universities get the reputation of providing a better educational environment catered to the needs of the students, public universities, despite their drastically lower cost, do not fall far behind.

Another complaint of public universities is that the students do not get enough individual attention. With the emergence of new Honors program, highly motivated students can go through a rigorous Ivy League-style program with smaller classes for more individual attention.

This allows for closer knit relationships between college students amidst a large campus. The diversity present throughout a public university can match any private university and furnishes an environment of sharing cultures and traditions.

Thus, the individual attention and close relationships that previously occurred only at private schools is now an increasing part of a public university education.

With comparable facilities, courses, faculty, and opportunities, public universities are growing as a viable low-cost option to private institutions. So before going overboard in the application process, a smart student would not neglect public universities. After all, the sense of pride achieved through acceptance into an Ivy League is only superficial.

- Mandar Muzumdar

Dance Inn Productions, Inc.
invites all middle and high school Lexington youth to participate in its 1999 Youth Ballroom Program.

FREE *Swing* CLASSES

Sundays – 3:00 – 4:00 (high school students)
January 10 – February 7 (5 week course)

For more information, pick up a registration form in the main office or call Dance Inn Productions at (781)863-5360.

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New state driving bill more pragmatic than preposterous

The new state driving bill, which went into effect the first week of November, is currently confusing juniors and pleasing seniors. Once the bill goes into effect, a junior (or anyone, for that matter) who has recently gotten his license or is planning to do so in the near future, must face the staunch state regulation prohibiting anyone holding a license for less than six months to drive with other people in the car.

Those of us who have come to rely on friends for transportation wonder what will come from our newly gained and instantly adored lifestyle of freedom.

Yours truly is constantly hearing her friends moan the loss of quality time spent in transit with one another. Soon time will rewind and this reporter will be forced back into the pattern of collect calls to the parents and back seat rides to the movies on weekends. However, despite its inconvenience, the driving bill has a purpose.

Statistics tell the story, much as we would like to belittle their importance: newly licensed drivers with friends in the car get into many more crashes than similarly distracted but more experienced drivers.

Complaints are loud and frequent from our befuddled junior class. Some unfortunate juniors will have lost their right to drive with others after four or five months of (relatively) unrestricted driving.

We, whose half birthdays awkwardly coincide with the passage of the bill, view restrictions as an injustice and the uninhibited smiles of already licensed seniors as cruel taunts.

However, to those future generations who will turn sixteen in two or ten years, the six-month period of inconvenience will be nothing more than another fact of the learning to drive process; a period not unlike the current reality of driving with a parent for six months before one can attain a license.

And, the state hopes, our reactions to this bill will be no different than our reactions to having a permit: an acknowledgement that the restrictions are meant only to ensure our safety and the safety of all drivers.

From this more broadminded perspective, the legislation does not seem as harsh. During six months of driving with a parent, one learns the basics of turning the wheel, starting the car, maneuvering difficult intersections and reacting to drivers turning illegally or stopping short.

Without the assistance of an anxious parent in the passenger seat, most of us would crash the car within a few weeks.

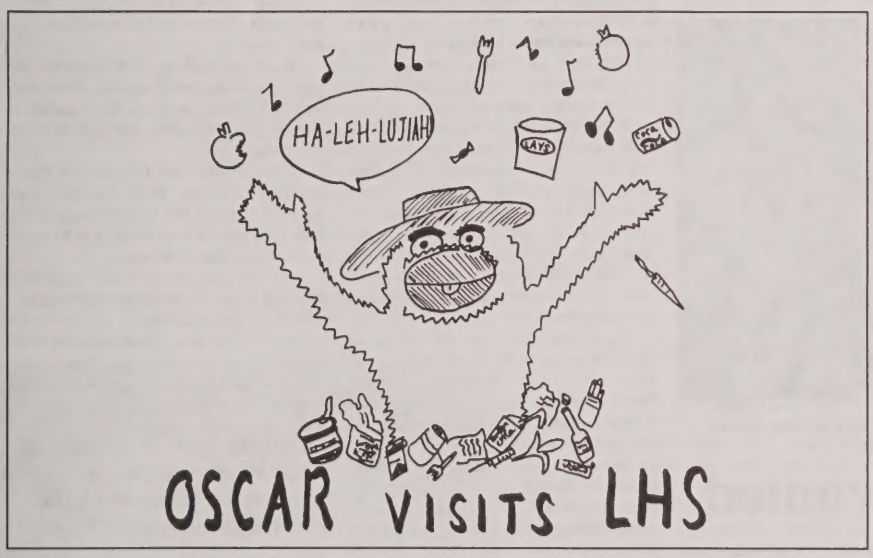
Having passed the not so rigorous test of making a left turn and a three point turn with a state official in the front seat, most feel that they are competent enough to function on the road without assistance. The acquisition of a shiny new license does not, however, ensure that a person is prepared for the distractions of friends and noise.

These, coupled with inexperience, are a recipe for disaster. Statistics tell the story, much as we would like to belittle their importance: newly licensed drivers with friends in the car get into many more crashes than similarly distracted but more experienced drivers.

The state, speaking clearly from the perspective of safety obsessed parents rather than fun-loving teenagers, recognizes that further experience is necessary to ensure safe driving.

As hard as it may be to accept loss of freedom, scarcity of rides, and greater involvement of parents, we sixteen-and-a-half year olds will have to accept the new complications in our life. Down the road, when we are parents ourselves, we will recognize that the state driving bill makes a lot more sense than we are now willing to admit.

- Liora Halperin



Cartoon by Yair Keshet

Too much trash distracts janitors

The following is the second article in a two part series on the trials and tribulations of the LHS custodian staff.

"It's sad, because it's the kids who are suffering. The school is a mess; it's really falling apart."

These are the words of Ralph Poletta, the school's head custodian, when asked about LHS's trash situation. There is so much trash, Poletta adds, that even if every custodian were to work overtime, he would not be able to completely clean the school.

At day's end, a lot of trash remains where it was thrown because, in short, there are too few custodians and too much trash.

"After school, the two quads are almost always in bad shape. But they're not nearly as bad as the area around F House."

Poletta recounts a day during which he placed an additional trash barrel near F House. Two trash barrels, he reasoned, are more visible than one. Later the same day, Poletta surveyed the area only to find more trash strewn around the barrels. Perhaps two barrels are not more visible than one.

"We've had to assign one man solely to the job of looking after the trash. He picks up trash and he empties trash cans and barrels. We don't want to give students the excuse of a full trash can or barrel."

And so one of the custodians, who could have been working inside--cleaning the school's bathrooms, windows, and lockers, or fixing broken heaters and intercom systems--is instead picking up and emptying trash.

A dirty exterior produces a dirty interior. As long as students miss the barrels with their trash, the door marking the entrance to the new G-House classrooms will never get fixed, and the stalls in the science building will never flush.

"Three weeks ago, the man designated to trash collection was cleaning the school with his tractor. When he wasn't looking, some kids decided to steal the gas cap of the tractor. As they drove by, they threw it at him."

But these students did not part without leaving their mark. They broke the cap.

Our custodial staff is admirable. The custodians endure the student population of LHS everyday. And somehow their boss can still say, "It's sad, because it's the kids who are suffering."

- Jon Amar

Ken and Barbie

Barbie and Ken have decided to delve into the more serious forms of journalism. Complaints have poured in about our free-form style, referred to in one extreme case as "loosey-goosey."

So, this month, we attempt a tried-and-true journalistic paradigm, the homage. To whom, you may ask? Whom do we hom? The Man, of course. That's Stu to you. Mr. Stu. Edgar. Stuhr. The. Man. Calamari King. Oh. Yes.

As proudly plastic alumni of the House of Stu, the Ambiguously Humorous Duo were wroth with anguish upon hearing of the departure of our beloved BioMan to a better place. The golf course, that is, home of Johnny Bench, Bob Hope, and someone else funny.

Truth is, without Mr. Stuhr, yours trulies might never have moved past the sophistication level of My Buddy and Kid Sister to the cellophane peak of enlightenment now attained. Edgar knew how to get down with the little people.

He knew how to relax, how to let it sliiide. He knew how to teach and how to preach. Following are the choicest, moistest nuggets of Stu's words of wiseliness. Here goes: to sir, with love.

Ken and Barbie had the privilege of hearing The Stu pontificate to his last honors section of biology. All his accumulated anecdotes, all his gathered gambols through life, were ours for the hearing. Who could forget the unforgettable tale of the snow white shoelaces?

For the uninitiated, we'll try to reproduce the original splendiferous story in all its wonder and sepia-toned goodness, but it's a task akin in difficulty to replicating a vinyl Four Platters album on digital tape -- if you don't know what we mean, that's all right, because neither do we.

Barbie: That's an awfully long sentence, Ken!

Ken: Indubitably delicious. Return to your Corvette and fetch me one of them nifty green visors. I'm feeling more journalistic by the passing moment on our plastic replica "Malibu Clock"!

Without further ado, ado, to you and you AND you, here's a classic Stuhr tidbit. Seems the Stu, a lovelorn college grad, had gotten himself a job as a pharmaceutical salesman, in hopes that the traveling salesman cliche would lend him success in his quest for both love and jones.

He'd hoped, or so we gather, to gititgoingon wit' the nurses, maybe even git some money from their alligator purses (hoochie!), but much to his cha and his grin, the nurses on his route were not quite Barbie-caliber.

Barbie: Hey, thanks!

Ken: Anytime, babe! <Wink> I learned chivalry from the Stu himself!

Nurses, you see, are those ladies who weren't quite bright enough to become doctors or pretty enough to become dental hygienists. In The Hallowed One's experience, they were middle-aged, buck-toothed, limp-haired, and thick-ankled.

What's more, they were stingy, stingy as cats. Their only vulnerability was their uncanny desire for white shoelaces. Heap upon heap of complimentary shoelaces was the Stu forced to provide to make his sales.

So, he frequented cheap, seedy, greasy coffee shops, hitting on kielbasa-shaped waitresses, waiting for his day to come. Soon, he returned to the Ivy League. The moral? Elitism is good.

Enough morals. It's clear that Ken, Barbie and our rapidly dwindling audience want only one thing at this point: fried shellfish. Alas and alack, greasy breaded sewer-feeders were the providence of Stuhr and the Stu no longer roams our halls.

Instead, he reads Modern Maturity in a La-Z-Boy. We would be remiss if we did not tell you of the Stu's culinary specialty, a little dish he, and we, like to call calamari, or, in layman's terms, previously dissected and eviscerated squid lab specimens lightly breaded and fried in a light, odiferous batter.

Barbie: Bleeaaaachchch.

Ken: It was two years ago, Barb. Give it up.

The odor of our ink-stained treats lingers on, and will long after we, and perhaps even the Stu, are forgotten. We'll miss you, Stu. We'll miss the neck cramp you inflicted with your god-sized stature. We'll miss running into you, your waist, that is, in the halls.

We'll long for, and remember, your coming-of-age tales, your molluskan tails, your advice to males. Perhaps we'll see you making an early-morning donut run for Mrs. Stu, as you did for us so long ago. So, LHS, the problem faces us, how do you thank someone who has taken you from crayons to perfume? It isn't easy, but we've tried.

Know your rights!!!

Seniors cross the bridge to adulthood

by
Nathaniel Prottas

Senior year is a time that everyone has waited for. Finally, the homework and the SATs stop and you are free to…fill out college applications.

True, senior year holds many new and exciting opportunities, but perhaps many of us let those newly acquired rights pass by without a thought.

Undoubtedly, turning 18 is the most exciting benefit to senior year (except to those poor souls who are young for their grade). But, do you know your rights?

Undoubtedly, turning 18 is the most exciting benefit to senior year (except to those poor souls who are young for their grade). But, do you know your rights?

Sure, there is the obvious stuff. We can buy cigarettes at any of the thousands of convenience stores in town.

However, due to new laws requiring age verification for anyone who looks under 26, some may still have trouble obtaining a pack. And, of course, we can vote. But, as MTV is constantly reiterating, most young people our age are not registered to vote.

So, if you want to exercise your right to have a voice in your country's political system, head on down to the town hall and register.

But most exciting of all is that we are now legally responsible for ourselves. Yes, that means that you can now sign yourself out of double block physics, or go to Boston instead of taking that French test you haven't studied for.

And of course, no longer are we slaves to the preliminary report system; no longer do our parents have to read and sign those funny comments like "works well with others" or "excellent effort." No, we are past that now.

However, turning 18 is not just the glitz and glamour of the voting booth and nicotine products. In fact there is a high price to pay for our newfound freedoms.

We are now fair pickings for the draft (at least the males) - not a particularly exciting prospect for most people. Suddenly, our right to vote has taken on a new importance, for it is up to us who goes to Congress and the Senate, and thus who declares war.

And if those we elected declare war…well, off we go! And, now should we commit a crime, we are no longer children in the eyes of the state; we can in fact be sent to jail.

Yet, as one student explains, there is a more serious side to this time in our lives. "We think we're grown-ups, but we're not," explains senior Claudia Stumpf.

Along with all of these new rights, comes a desire to be an adult, a desire that many students at LHS are not ready to take.

And there are some who seem to see this time not only as an opportunity for fun, but also as a new point in their lives, where they are full of new responsibilities that they may not want to take on.

Photo by Sarah Platt

At a recent meeting, senior Matt Cohen, a founder of the Progressive Party, asserts his 'Civil Liberties' as members look on.

Renovations welcomed

RENOVATIONS, from page 1

space.

The new larger cafeterias will be located in the former industrial arts area and near the auditorium.

In terms of class space, the revised proposal plan will result in 16 additional classrooms, 5 new science labs, 2 new technology areas, and an additional physical education room, library classroom and music classroom.

As a result of the changes in classroom design, the number of classrooms will increase from approximately 58 to 74 and the number of science labs, from 15 to 20.

These revisions are required to meet the state mandated 990 hours requirement: "It was very important to make certain that the renovation plan would accommodate our upcoming requirements, " states Lanoue.

In their meeting, Town Meeting members extensively discussed monetary issues concerning the revised proposal. The revised plan appropriates $29,307,605 or approximately 54% of the total capital plan, for the high school, 59% of which will eventually be reimbursed by the State.

This budget also includes a 10% contingency from unanticipated construction costs and adequate funds for new classroom furniture and equipment. Most of the money, roughly $19,000,000, is needed to repair the existing infrastructure- mechanical systems, flooring, windows, walls, and bathrooms.

Showing his support of the Town Meeting's decision, Lanoue states, "The idea of the revised proposal was to [renovate] because of the state reimbursement, and that's what it [the proposal] does- at a reduced scale from previous plans."

Overall, the response to the Town Meeting's decision has been positive. The initial reaction of parent and citizen groups, once they understand the revised proposal, is enthusiastic. And, according to Lanoue, student response has also been positive.

Senior Holly Arthur states, "Even though I'm generally opposed to high taxes and big spending, I think this [revised renovation proposal] is a good idea because it affects the health and well-being of students."

Human rights night held

AMNESTY, from page 1

Rubenstein also asserted that the U.S. was remiss in its efforts to stop human rights violations. "The U.S. needs to take a tough leadership in these issues and get involved in the creation of an international tribunal court, " he said.

To the elation of its founders, Ticotsky and Platt, the proceeds of this first annual human rights seminar went to the LHS chapter of Amnesty International.

Photo by Emily Handlin

Senior Elizabeth Cunha considers watching the WB's 'Felicity' and 'Buffy' one of her most important rights and responsibilities.

New clubs provide additional avenues for student expression

by
Steve Estes

The list of extracurricular opportunities at LHS has always been long. Among such opportunities are the student-run clubs.

This year, several new clubs have started, giving students even more opportunities for fun, learning and profit.

While the goals and themes of these clubs vary, they all share an interest in providing students with something they normally would not find in school. From a Renaissance bard's plays to up-to-date politics, almost all interest groups are represented in the fast-growing list of activities.

Heading the list of these new opportunities is the Progressive Party, LHS's first politically based club.

Supporting campaigns and policies as far-reaching as Scott Harshbarger's campaign and a national hate crimes bill, the Progressive Party hopes to influence local decisions such as recycling bills by introducing them to the LHS Senate.

Several weeks ago the Progressive Party invited Jay Kaufman, our state representative, to speak at LHS and plans to line up several more presentations in the coming year.

On a less political note, the Magic Club was formed by a small group that wanted to play a card game of increasing popularity. Conceived several years ago, Magic: The Gathering, has almost become a national sport.

Magic tournaments are common and according to junior Duane Compton, "hold great scholarship opportunities." Compton continues, "This game evolves in your mind into a more technical and strategic game."

As one of the founders of this club, Compton plans to organize tournaments, holding workshops to improve the performance of participants and attending tournaments himself.

Estimating the membership of his club as 15 to 20 people, Compton adds that the group meets after school at Hit and Run Sportscards in Lexington center.

Next on the list is the Computer Team, a ghost that has risen from last year. Originally intended to inform and educate the student body about computers, the Computer Team now focuses on competition in programming.

The group plans to compete in leagues that include both experienced and inexperienced categories. So, those with little experience should not hesitate to join. The new Computer Team is not the same as the computer club of last year and has entirely different goals.

Yet, it is something all those interested in programming should consider. Since current membership is small, the organizers hope to gain recognition and clout as they win competitions.

Deeming their Art of the Film class insufficient, seniors Jason Massello and Kenny Ko started the Contemporary Film club. They plan to meet every week to view films and discuss their themes.

By focusing on classic films, the founders hope to do things they usually don't do in Art of the Film.

Created as a school extension of a sport many in Lexington enjoy already, the Figure Skating Club was created to allow students to participate in a league that is restricted to schools.

While the goals and themes of these clubs vary, they all share an interest in providing students with something they normally would not find in school.

The club is preparing for a fiercely competitive end-of-year state competition, with the possibility of awards and prizes. Although only about ten people are currently enrolled, the club plans to attract members from the Hayden
teams.

Also new this year is LHS's first environmentalist club, the Save the Manatees Club, created by junior Alex Pollen to save endangered species. The name of the club is misleading; it is not only concerned with manatees, but all endangered species.

The club has already met, and hopes to accomplish much for the less fortunate species of our planet.

Aside from a poster on a pillar near the main entrance of G House, little has been said of Shakespeare with a Twist, a club interested in reading, analyzing, and performing the bard's plays. This club is one of the few literary clubs at LHS.

Gridders hungry for Thanksgiving win

by
Alex Sherman

The Lexington varsity football team has the ability to beat any team in the Middlesex League.

They are undefeated against teams with records under .500, and they rarely disappoint. All of this makes Coach Bill Tighe happy.

Of course, the Lexington varsity football team has yet to beat a team with a winning record. They are 0-4 against the top teams in the Middlesex League.

This makes Coach Bill Tighe unhappy.

"We've come to play every game," said Tighe. "The kids play their hearts out, and you can't ask any more than that, but it's certainly disappointing when you come so close but can't pull it off."

"The kids play their hearts out, and you can't ask any more than that, but it's certainly disappointing when you come so close but can't pull it off."

- Coach Bill Tighe

After trouncing Stoneham 26-12 to improve to 3-2 on the year, Lexington has dropped their last two games to league powerhouses, Melrose and Belmont.

Although the Minutemen have had opportunities to win, luck has not gone their way.

For nearly three and a half quarters in a game against Melrose, it appeared as though Lexington would break through with a big win against 5-1 Melrose.

The victory would have boosted Lexington to 4-2 overall, and a Middlescx League title would not have been out of the realm of possibility.

After Lexington's senior co-captain Tom Bellini gave the Minutemen a 6-0 lead in the first quarter, the Blue and Gold defense went to work, shutting down the Red Raiders' powerful offense.

But, Melrose's running back George Leblanc was too tough down the stretch, giving Melrose a 13-6 victory.

Junior Neal Foley effectively gave Lexington one last shot to tie or win the game, leading the troops all the way to the Melrose 11 yard line.

With four seconds remaining, Coach Tighe reached way down into his 'bag-o'-tricks' to come up with the idea of a flee-flicker, a reverse where the wide receiver pitches the ball back to the quarterback instead of running with it.

Unfortunately, the ball was deflected and Melrose held on for the win.

The next week, Lexington had had another chance to win. Scoring on their opening drive, Lexington took a 7-0 lead on Boston Globe's #13 ranked Belmont when the ball slipped out of quarterback Brendon Sullivan's hands on third-and-goal.

When a Belmont defender jumped on it, Lexington's hopes of an upset were dashed.

"They would have pressed the panic button if we had gone up 14-0," noted Tighe. "We would have had a good shot, but [the fumble] was the turning point."

Despite outstanding plays by Santo, the Lexington defense, once again, could not hold their opposing team's offense in the fourth quarter.

However, if Lexington can dominate Burlington on Thanksgiving, the Minutemen will believe that 1998 was a successful season.

Photo by Kevin Klaus

Senior co-captain Tom Bellini dashes for the yard line, eluding the opposition of Woburn bearing down upon him. Bellini gave the Minutemen a touchdown in the first quarter of the game.

'Maids swimming in success

Third place in the league has all the girls smiling

by
Vera Sandefer

The LHS girls' swim team has surpassed its preseason expectations to enjoy a successful year.

The girls practiced hard, worked hard, and swam hard. Originally ranked fourth in the league, the Minutemaids closed the season in third place.

Lexington faced Belmont, the powerhouse of the Middle-sex League, to close the dual meet season, losing by only 11 points.

A record of 6-2 has all of the team members smiling. Junior Carol Chow has this to say, "We've all tried really hard. Overall, I'm satisfied with our progress.

The whole team has done the best that it could and I guess no one could ask for any more than that."

A recent article in The Boston Globe claimed that " the marks of a good team, regardless of the sport, are great leadership and the willingness to strive even harder for the best." The Minutemaids have that and then some.

With a great coach, Donna Cerrato, and senior captains Avital Levy, and Kelly Archidiacono, the team certainly has the leadership. Another strong driving force for Lexington is the best 4 x 100 relay team in the league.

"We have a great team," says junior Jodie Nemser-Abrams. "I couldn't be happier with the progress we've made. Some meets were harder than others, but every time, we just had more to strive for. We know what we have to do and we get it done."

Offbeat Athlete

Touché! LHS fencer seventh in nation

by
Becky Ticotsky

Offbeat athlete is a column dedicated to celebrating the achievements of LHS athletes who excel in non-traditional, non-school sponsored sports events.

Other than the $100 million salary difference, LHS senior Bertrand Landel has a lot in common with Mo Vaughn and Drew Bledsoe.

Landel is one of the top area athletes in his field, fencing. "He's one of the best fencers I've ever seen," says freshman Jim Klimek, who fences with Landel at the Boston Fencing Club in Watertown. "I've never seen him lose a bout."

Landel started fencing when he was five years old and living in Nancy, France. But his fencing was put on hold due to a lack of facilities when his family moved to the United States two years later.

At age ten, when he discovered the Boston Fencing Club, Landel resumed training.

Landel's talent emerged early in his fencing career when he placed eighth in the French equivalent of a state championship at the age of six. Currently, Landel, sixteen, is ranked 15th in the United States in the under-20 division of foil fencing, and finished seventh in the under-17s and 12th out of 200 in the under-20s at the Junior Olympics.

Klimek considers Landel to be the best local fencer, but Landel modestly claims that the Northeast is not a fencing hotbed. However, the Boston Fencing Club team won the under-19 national championship in 1997.

"To be a successful fencer, one needs to have patience, balance, and hand-eye-foot coordination," Landel says. "There are short moments where you have to be active."

Fencing bouts take place in a 30 x 4 foot rectangle. In preliminary rounds of a tournament, the first fencer to gain five points in less than four minutes wins.

"He [Landel] is one of the best fencers I've ever seen."

- Freshman Jim Klimek

If the score is tied, one minute overtimes are added. Single elimination bouts last nine minutes and the first with 15 points wins.

In the foil division, (as opposed to epée, in which the whole body is fair game and saber, in which one can use the whole sword to hit above the waist) fencers can hit their opponents only on the torso or back and only with the tip of the weapon. Each hit is worth one point. It is illegal to block using the free hand.

To prevent injury from the sword, fencers wear pants and jackets made of bullet-proof kevlar, high socks, a metal vest, and a helmet with a wire mask.

Although its equipment may look unusual, Landel thinks that fencing is similar to other events in that a strong work ethic is required for improvement.

"It's like any other sport," he says. "If you want to be good, you have to practice really hard."

On that note, Landel believes that Klimek has a lot of potential as a fencer. Klimek, who was inspired by the film of Alexander Dumas's book, The Three Musketeers, started competing only a year and a half ago.

"If he puts his mind to it, I think he can be good because he has a lot of innate skill," states Landel.

As for Landel's own career, the senior says that his fencing future depends on where he goes to college. He will fence in the US next year if his school has a team, and if he studies in Europe, he will probably train for prestigious world cup events.

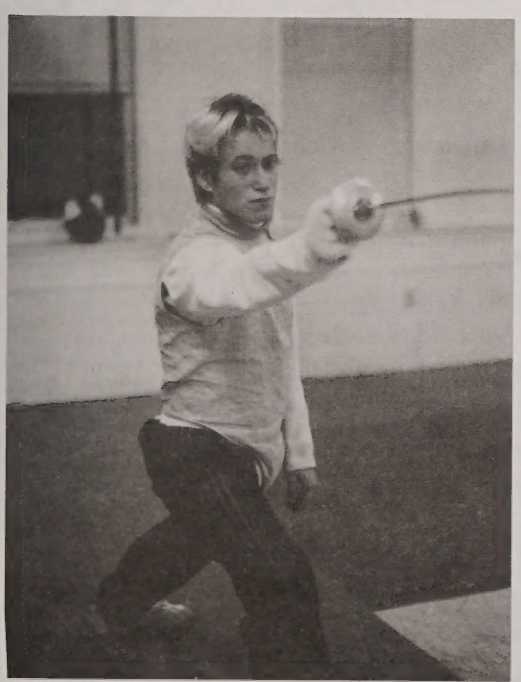


Photo by Sarah Platt

En garde! Senior Bertrand Landel maintains his composure as he duels the opponent in a warm-up at the Boston Fencing Club.

Photo by Emily Handlin

Senior Misha Horowitz (l), a veritable roadrunner on the boys' cross country team, warms up to a fantastic start. The Minutemen were crowned league champions.

Boys' & girls' x-country triumph

'Men win league, 'maids close behind

by
Eleanor Finnegan

The men's and women's cross country teams brought their seasons to a climax of stardom with excellent performances.

The Minutemaids finished off their regular season with an impressive win at home over Burlington. The girls took the first four places and improved their record to 7-2.

Finishing first was senior Emily Wanderer, followed closely by senior Eleanor Finnegan. The next two finishers for Lexington were Deena Mencow and Lindsay Martin.

Mencow, who is a junior this year, will be looking to lead the team next year when Finnegan, Wanderer, and Martin are gone.

The day was gorgeous and "this was an ideal way to finish our season," said Wanderer.

There was also excitement as the boys finished their season undefeated and became league champs in the process. Gates "Marita" Joseph ran a 15:36, followed by Nick "Are You an Animal?" Roetter.

But more exciting than their routes of Burlington, were the teams' performances at the Middlesex League meet.

The guys came out on top, proving that they are the dominating force in the league. Roetter and Joseph let out cries of ecstasy as they crossed they finish line in second and first place.

"This was an ideal way to finish our season."

- Senior Emily Wanderer

They were followed by the duo of Mike Mihovan and Max Woolf, who also won medals with finishes of ninth and 16th place. The next finisher for Lexington was Misha Horowitz, who was running with a chipped wrist.

The final two finishers for the Championship team were Eric Hoiriis and Alex Popkin, two strong runners. There were fast times for the girls, too, as they brought their season to a titillating finish, coming in third in the League.

Finnegan crossed the line first for the girls with a ninth place finish. Next over the line for the team was Wanderer, who finished tenth. Mencow and Heather Knight finished next, coming in 21st and 25th, respectively. Martin finished close on their heels.

To the admiration of all the male spectators, Kate Shugart and Tanya Brennon passed three girls at the end. The team was also very proud of one of its freshmen, Rachel Greenspan, who came in ninth in the varsity race (the first Lexington finisher in the JV race).

Both teams are very excited about their next challenge, the State Coaches' meet at Franklin Park, followed by the biggest meet of the season, States, which will also be held at Franklin Park.

Field hockey closes in on longtime rival

by
Stephanie Miles

Always a bridesmaid never a bride. This has been the typical story line for the LHS field hockey team over the past few seasons.

In fact, for eight consecutive years the Minutemaids have finished second to rival Watertown in the Middlesex League.

This year's action packed team came closer than ever to bringing home the gold.

However, the 1998 squad seemed poised to solve the Watertown Raiders' riddle. With a promising group of both new and old players this year, the 'Maids were at the top of the league, standing in second place.

With only three returning starters, the 'Maids had their work cut out for them. And work they did. One of the returning players, sophomore all-star goalie Jillian Savoy, led the league with only six goals allowed in sixteen games.

Another essential player for the Minutemaids is senior Adriana Schick, an all-star halfback.

Not only did the Blue and Gold qualify for the state tournament, but they were also in second place (12-1-3), close behind Watertown.

Although Lexington has fallen short of Watertown since 1990, this year's action packed team came closer than ever to bringing home the gold.

Tri-captain Kristin Hopwood, the Middlesex League MVP, thinks Lexington can go all the way in the post season.

"We are hoping to go pretty far," she said.

The Minutemaids have met the challenge of bringing the new players together and have worked together to become a strong team.

"We are a strong team individually," said Hopwood. "Everyone does her share."

Photo by Emily Handlin

Hoping to achieve the success of her varsity superiors, freshman JV player Jessica Pasquin hacks the ball away from the opposition. Pasquin's work paid off. The JV team was undefeated (13-0) in their season.

Girls' soccer dealt disappointment

by
Lisa Bergman

Disappointment: it's touched just about every sports team. Losing is just as much a part of sports as are hard work and dedication.

This fall, the girls' soccer team has been dealt more than its fair share of disappointment and loss.

The team's record is 4-7-2, but according to the team's captain, senior Claire Cuno, those numbers could have been different.

"It seems as if we always lose our games by only one goal, and that goal always goes in for a stupid reason," she states. "We're so good, and we try so hard. We've just been really unlucky."

But misfortune has not extinguished these girls' spirits. They're as devoted as ever, both to the sport and to each other.

The team's record will prevent the Minutemaids from being eligible for the state tournament, but everyone continues to give their all at practices and in games. The team is trying to make the best of its remaining time as a cohesive unit.

"I guess the advantage to not making the tournament is that we get to end the season a little earlier, but I'll miss playing with everyone," says Cuno. "We have a great time."

The other explanation for the team's troubled season (besides the simple affliction of bad luck) is that the contribution of upperclassmen strength is in limbo this year.

There are only three seniors, which equals the number of freshmen on the team. But the team is loaded with talented players. Cuno speculates about the team's prospects for next year:

"Our record is worse than last year's but that's because this is a rebuilding year," she said. "But watch out for them next year. They're going to be damn good!"

Luck lacking for golfers

by
Josh Glickman

Don't let their 3-6 record fool you. After jumping out to a 2-1 start, the Minutemen may have gone on to drop five of their last six, but this year's Lexington golf team was not the disappointment it may seem to be at first glance.

With a difficult schedule in one to the most competitive leagues in Massachusetts, the Minutemen put up a good effort while battling inconsistent play.

Lexington's two victories over Stoneham and Burlington looked as though they would nullify an opening match loss to Reading.

Their efforts, however, were for naught as Lexington suffered losses at the hands of Winchester, Wakefield and Melrose before finally achieving their final victory of the year versus Watertown.

The Minutemen closed out the season with close losses against Belmont and Woburn.

"Our record does not reflect our play," Coach Rick Thibeault stressed in response to the sub-par season. "Had we made a putt here and there, our record would have looked a lot different."

"Our record does not reflect our play... Had we made a putt here and there, our record would have looked a lot different."

- Coach Rick Thibeault

Golf, however, is a game of inches. Unfortunately, for the Lexington squad, these small mistakes added up to a losing season.

Thibeault refused to make excuses for his team's play, explaining that [the Minutemen] "just didn't make the shots when they needed to."

Despite finishing below expectations in the team standings, Lexington players fared very well in the league's individual championships.

Tri-captains, Dave Oberto, Tim Carlson and Ari Vigoda represented Lexington in the Middlesex league Tournament by scoring the second best combined score of any team representatives.

Dave Oberto, the top Minuteman, finished third, making himself eligible for the state tournament, in which he placed 8th.

Lexington's line-up was stacked with a large number of seniors this year including Oberto, Carlson, Vigoda, Spencer Nichols, Gordon Barnes, and Evan Harris.

With these players graduating, next years team will be left with be hurting for experience.

Coach Thibeault, though, is confident that his young talent will come through, leading Lexington to a better finish next year.